

February 1

Mark 7:1-13

**“Tradition! and
the Word of God”**



¹ Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. ² And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. ³ For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the **tradition of the elders**. ⁴ And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. ⁵ Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the **tradition of the elders**, but

eat bread with unwashen hands? ⁶ He answered and said unto them, **Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.** ⁷ Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the **tradition of men**, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹ And he said unto them, **Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye 33 keep your own tradition.** ¹⁰ For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso

curseth father or mother, let him die the death: ¹¹ But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. ¹² And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; ¹³ Making **the word of God** of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Jesus said they were hypocrites. This is the way he described their prophesied hypocritical behavior:

By you, I'm lip-honored
but heart-rejected.
You are ineffective
worshippers.

You turn man-made rules
and cultural traditions into
doctrines. Meanwhile,
you disregard God's
commandments.

Your actions negate
the Word (teachings,
message) **of God**

“God's Word” is what God
actually said; not any Bible
version and certainly not

any modern language
script— as none had been
written when Jesus
spoke these words.

Jesus sternly rebuked
religious leaders of his day.
Is it any wonder he was
hated and was
ultimately killed?

In what ways are
traditions substituted
for the words of God in
our times?

Are traditions and
popular practices more
valued than Scripture?

Are there some who teach
human-made rules as if
they were commandments
of God?



Is the “**laying** aside”
of the “commandment
of God” happening,
while people are

being taught to
“hold the tradition
of men”?

What is more
important:
keeping
tradition
or,
instead,
following the
Word of God?